

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADORS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, PDEV, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR EFFORTS IN PRESENTING
ANGLO-AMERICAN POSITIONS ON RHODESIA TO HOST GOVERN-
MENTS. WE REGRET THAT FAST BREAKING EVENTS DURING PAST
WEEK HAVE PREVENTED US FROM KEEPING YOU

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INFORMED. THE FOLLOWING REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IS
FOR YOUR BACKGROUND ONLY AT THIS TIME.

2. THE SECRETARY'S AUGUST 12-13 MEETINGS IN LONDON
MOVED US SOMEWHAT CLOSER TO FORMAL PRESENTATION OF THE
RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS. IN A SIX HOUR MEETING
WITH SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA THE SECRETARY

AND DR. OWEN OUTLINED THE PLAN AND URGED THAT SOUTH AFRICA USE ITS INFLUENCE ON SMITH. BOTHA ARGUED THAT THE PLAN SHOULD NOT BE FORMALLY PRESENTED UNTIL AFTER THE AUGUST 31 RHODESIAN ELECTIONS. THE TWO SECRETARIES REJECTED THIS ARGUMENT, THOUGH, IT NOW APPEARS THAT SNAGS IN THE PROPOSED PRESENTATION TIMETABLE MAKES PRESENTATION PRIOR TO AUGUST 31 UNLIKELY. APART FROM MAKING THE PREDICTABLE SOUTH AFRICAN ARGUMENTS, I.E. THE PLAN WILL NOT BE ATTRACTIVE ENOUGH TO THE WHITES, BOTHA LISTENED CAREFULLY AND ASKED NUMEROUS SERIOUS

QUESTIONS. DURING THE COURSE OF THE MEETING IT WAS MADE CLEAR TO BOTHA THAT SHOULD SOUTH AFRICA NOT PROVE HELPFUL IN CONVINCING SMITH TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS, WE WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER INCREASING PRESSURES ON THE SMITH REGIME WHICH WOULD INEVITABLY AFFECT THE SOUTH AFRICANS. (IN A PRIOR MEETING OWEN AND VANCE DETERMINED THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA BASED ON THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER VII FINDING ON THE RHODESIAN SITUATION AS A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE COULD BE PURSUED. OWEN AND VANCE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBLE OIL-RELATED PRESSURES. THE BRITISH HAVE ALREADY APPROACHED BP AND SHELL. THOSE

COMPANIES HAVE AGREED TO CONTACT THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND SEEK WAYS OF PREVENTING THEIR OIL FROM BEING
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TRANSSHIPPED TO RHODESIA. FURTHER MEASURES WERE NOT AGREED UPON.)

3. THE SECRETARY THEN MET WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE WHO WAS PASSING THROUGH LONDON ON HIS RETURN FROM HIS TRIP TO THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN HEMISPHERE STATES. NYERERE RECONFIRMED HIS AGREEMENT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER THAT HE WAS WILLING TO CALL TOGETHER THE OTHER FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS FOR A MEETING AT WHICH OWEN AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG WOULD PRESENT OUR PROPOSALS. NYERERE WAS, HOWEVER, TROUBLED BY WHAT HE INTERPRETED AS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE US AND UK VIEWS ON CRUCIAL SECURITY ISSUES DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD AND BEYOND. (NYERERE WAS GENERALLY MIFFED AT THE BRITISH FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS.) HE WOULD DELAY CALLING THE MEETING UNTIL ANGLO-AMERICAN THINKING ON THIS TOPIC HAD BEEN CLARIFIED FOR HIM.

4. AFTER THE SECRETARY'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND AF/S DIRECTOR PETTERSON RETURNED TO LONDON FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH THE BRITISH. IN THESE A POSITION RELATING TO LAW AND ORDER WAS WORKED

OUT AND PRESENTED ORALLY TO NYERERE ON AUGUST 18 BY THE US AMBASSADOR AND BRITISH HICOM IN DAR ES SALAAM. THE BASIC PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE AGREED POSITION EMPHASIZE: (1) THE NEED FOR A UN FORCE TO HELP MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, (2) OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE REGIME'S FORCES AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED WILL BE DEMOBILIZED, AND (3) THAT A NEW ARMY WILL BE CREATED FOR AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE WHICH WILL BE BASED PREDOMINANTLY ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FORCES. NYERERE WAS TOLD THAT THE PRECISE DETAILS OF

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CEASEFIRE AND DEMOBILIZATION OF EXISTING FORCES AS WELL AS THE CREATION OF THE NEW FORCE SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AMONG THE
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PARTIES CONCERNED, INCLUDING THE UN.

5. NYERERE PRONOUNCED HIMSELF SATISFIED WITH OUR CLARIFICATION. HE AGREED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE FRONT LINE MEETING. OUR HOPE IS THAT THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE TERMINATION OF THE LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID CONFERENCE (AUGUST 28). THE PROPOSALS WILL ALSO BE FORMALLY PRESENTED TO THE RHODESIAN REGIME, THE NATIONALISTS, AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS. CONSEQUENTLY PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSALS TO WORLD OPINION VIA THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN PLANNED FOR AUGUST 23 WILL BE DELAYED ACCORDINGLY.

6. US-UK HAVE BRIEFED UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM AND WORLD BANK PRESIDENT MC NAMARA OF OUR PLANS. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE WORLD BANK WILL AGREE TO ADMINISTER THE ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND WHICH WE VIEW AS AN INTEGRAL ELEMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS.

7. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO KEEP YOU AS INFORMED AS POSSIBLE OF DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. CHRISTOPHER

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